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GreenLatinos Statement on Anticipated Withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement

Following media reports that the White House plans to withdraw from the Paris agreement under the U.N. Framework Convention on Global Climate Change, Mark Magaña, President & CEO of GreenLatinos issued the following statement:

Donald Trump is steering the United States down a dangerous path that not only jeopardizes the public health and environment of our own citizens -- including millions of Latinos, who are often on the front lines of the worst impacts of climate change and pollution -- but also puts at risk the global community as a whole.

Domestically, Hispanics face an increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and pollution. Nearly 2 in 5 Latinos lives within 30 miles of a power plant. As a result, Hispanics—particularly children and the elderly— risk greater exposure to increased extreme heat and weather, smog, and air pollution. Latinos are also more likely to suffer from asthma attacks, necessitating more days off from school or work as a result of pollution-related illness.

Whether it's breathing toxic air from a nearby power plant, drinking unclean water, worrying about not having a home due to rising sea levels, or suffering from air quality-related respiratory illnesses, climate change is keeping many Latinos and other underrepresented communities from fully benefiting from a healthy and productive quality of life, which in turn affects our economy and productivity as a nation. None of these adverse and disproportionate impacts will be improved without international agreements like the Paris climate agreement because pollution does not stop at borders.

The President's actions are reckless, bad policy, and an embarrassment to the international leadership on climate and many other issues on which our nation has been instrumental in engaging collaboratively with the global community.

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GreenLatinos is a national non-profit organization that convenes a broad coalition of Latino leaders committed to addressing national, regional and local environmental, natural resources and conservation issues that significantly affect the health and welfare of the Latino community in the United States. GreenLatinos provides an inclusive table at which its members establish collaborative partnerships and networks to improve the environment; protect and promote conservation of land and other natural resources; amplify the voices of minority, low-income and tribal communities; and train, mentor, and promote the current and future generations of Latino environmental leaders for the benefit of the Latino community and beyond. GreenLatinos develops and advocates for policies and programs to advance this mission.